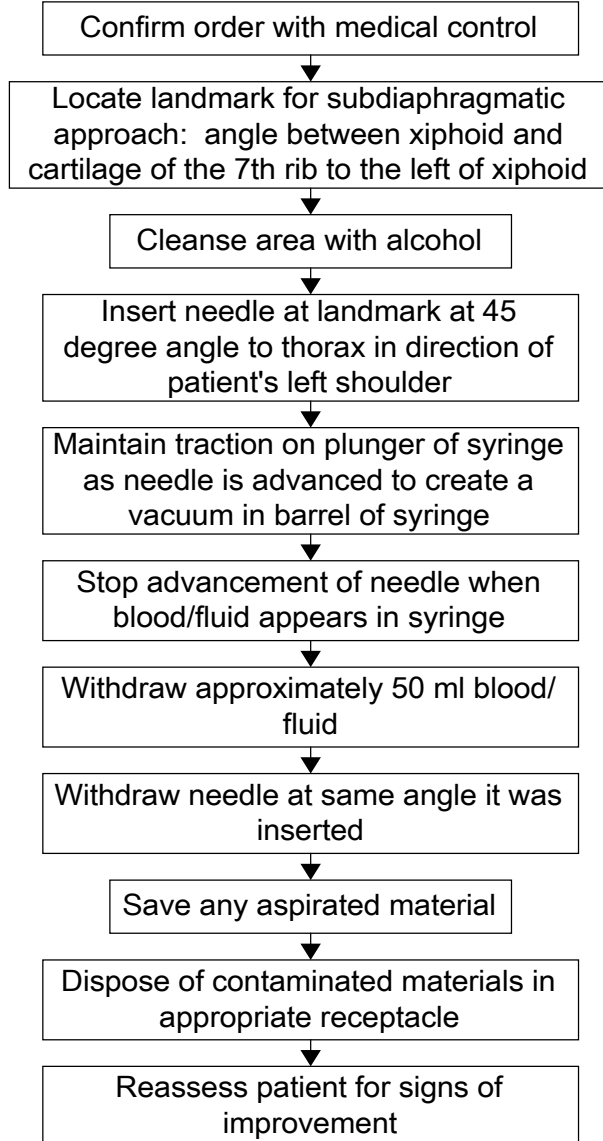


Initial: 9/92
Reviewed/revised: 5/10/00
Revision: 2

**MILWAUKEE COUNTY EMS
PRACTICAL SKILL
PERICARDIOCENTESIS**

Approved by: Ronald Pirrallo, MD, MHSA
Signature:
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Purpose:		Indications:	
To remove blood or fluid from the pericardial sac		Pulseless, apneic patients with signs/symptoms of pericardial tamponade	
Advantages:	Complications:		Contraindications:
Removes blood or fluid from the pericardial sac	Damage to the left anterior descending coronary artery Pneumothorax Laceration of myocardium		Any patient with pulses



NOTES:

- Signs/symptoms of pericardial tamponade are: hypotension, tachycardia, distended neck veins, narrow pulse pressure, lack of pulses with CPR.